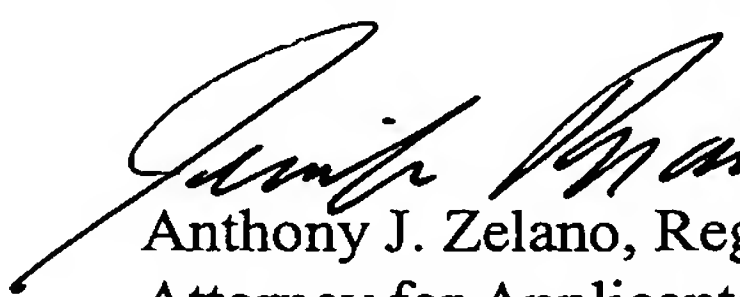


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

for AJZ

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.

Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1

2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400

Arlington, VA 22201

Direct Dial: 703-812-5311

Facsimile: 703-243-6410

Attorney Docket No.:MERCK-3234

Date: September 29, 2006

AJZ:hlw

K:\Merck\3000 - 3999\3234\preliminary amendment.doc